

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-15 as being anticipated by Durlacher (U.S. 2,954,977). While Applicant does not concede that original claim 1-15 were anticipated, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 13 in order to more clearly distinguish Durlacher and thereby expedite prosecution.

Claims 1 and 13, as amended, require that each step comprise a platform sized to accommodate the entire body of the child. The importance of this feature of Applicant's invention is discussed at page 2, lines 10-16 of Applicant's specification:

The steps may be large enough to accommodate the entire body of a child, e.g., a child having a height of up to 36 inches. Steps of this size allow a child to place his or her hands and knees on the step simultaneously, prior to climbing to the next step. This feature allows small children, who would typically be unable to climb conventional stairs, to safely climb and descend.

Durlacher clearly does not teach or fairly suggest a playset in which each step comprises a platform sized to accommodate the entire body of the child. Instead, in the playset described by Durlacher the "steps" as construed by the Examiner are merely removable bars 17 that would be ascended like rungs of a ladder. Bars 17 are not sized to allow a child to place his or her hands and knees on the bar simultaneously prior to ascending to the next bar. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 13 are not anticipated by Durlacher and request that this rejection be withdrawn.

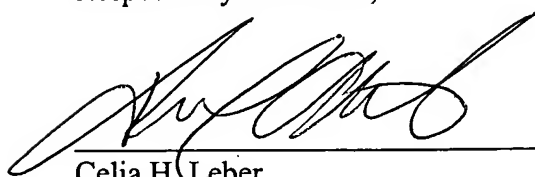
Applicant believes that no fees are due. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 06702-008001.

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Serial No. : 10/750,237
Filed : December 29, 2003
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Attorney's Docket No.: 06702-008001

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 21, 2005



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